

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor for the telephonic interview conducted on March 25, 2009. During that interview, the Examiner agreed to withdraw all of the remaining rejections for obviousness. Further, the Examiner suggested possible claim amendments in view of the specification as filed.

Amendments to the claims

Claim 7 is amended to specify a method of identifying an inhibitor of Abeta-42 formation. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0010] and [2387] of the original specification.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over Fechteler et al. (WO 01/49871) and Winther et al. (WO 01/70993) in view of Nakada et al. (Neuroreport 1:153 (1990)) and Conquer et al. (Lipids 35:1305 (2000)). Claims 69-71 were rejected for obviousness over the above references in further view of Cho et al. (J. Biol. Chem. 274:471 (1999)).

As discussed in the interview, it would not be *prima facie* obvious to one skilled in the art to screen for a single compound that modulates the two distinct enzymes, FADS2

and gamma secretase, unless there were some teaching or suggestion of an interaction or common activity between the two enzymes.

None of the references cited by the Examiner teaches or suggests a relationship between FADS2 and gamma-secretase. In view of this argument, the Examiner withdrew the obviousness rejections of claims 7-10 and 69-71 during the March 25, 2009 interview (see the Examiner's interview summary, mailed March 31, 2009). Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

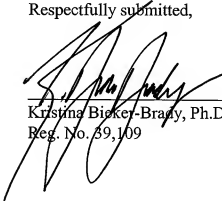
The Examiner withdrew all of the outstanding rejections of claims 7-10 and 69-71 during the March 25, 2009 interview and therefore the currently pending claim should be allowed.

Transmitted herewith is a Petition to extend the period for replying for three months. If there are any other charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

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